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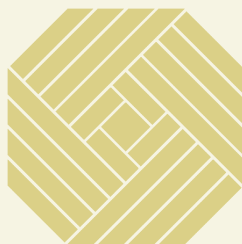
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# COMPOSITIO MATHEMATICA

## A mass transference principle for systems of linear forms and its applications

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# A mass transference principle for systems of linear forms and its applications

Demi Allen and Victor Beresnevich

*Dedicated to Denise and John Allen (Nan and Grandad) on the occasions of their 70th birthdays*

## ABSTRACT

In this paper we establish a general form of the mass transference principle for systems of linear forms conjectured in 2009. We also present a number of applications of this result to problems in Diophantine approximation. These include a general transference of Lebesgue measure Khintchine–Groshev type theorems to Hausdorff measure statements. The statements we obtain are applicable in both the homogeneous and inhomogeneous settings as well as allowing transference under any additional constraints on approximating integer points. In particular, we establish Hausdorff measure counterparts of some Khintchine–Groshev type theorems with primitivity constraints recently proved by Dani, Laurent and Nogueira.

## 1. Introduction

The main goal of this paper is to settle a problem posed in [BBDV09] regarding the mass transference principle, a technique in geometric measure theory that was originally discovered in [BV06a] having primarily been motivated by applications in metric number theory. To some extent the present work is also driven by such applications.

To begin with, recall that the sets of interest in metric number theory often arise as the upper limit of a sequence of ‘elementary’ sets, such as balls, and satisfy elegant zero-one laws. Recall that if  $(E_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a sequence of sets then the *upper limit* or  $\limsup$  of this sequence is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} E_i &:= \{x : x \in E_i \text{ for infinitely many } i \in \mathbb{N}\} \\ &= \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{i \geq n} E_i. \end{aligned}$$

These zero-one laws usually involve simple criteria, typically the convergence or divergence of a certain sum, for determining whether the measure of the  $\limsup$  set is zero or one. To give an

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example, consider Khintchine's classical theorem [Khi24] that deals with the set  $\mathcal{K}(\psi)$  of  $x \in [0, 1]$  such that

$$|qx - p| < \psi(q) \quad (1)$$

holds for infinitely many  $(p, q) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}$ . Clearly,  $\mathcal{K}(\psi)$  is the lim sup set of the intervals defined by (1), which are the 'elementary' sets in this setting. Khintchine proved that for any arithmetic function  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ := [0, +\infty)$  such that  $q\psi(q)$  is monotonic the Lebesgue measure of  $\mathcal{K}(\psi)$  is ZERO if  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} \psi(q) < \infty$  and ONE otherwise.

Around 1930, Jarník and Besicovitch both independently considered the size of  $\mathcal{K}(\psi)$  using Hausdorff measures and dimension, thus proving results enabling us to see the difference between sets  $\mathcal{K}(\psi)$  indistinguishable by Khintchine's result. For example, the Jarník–Besicovitch theorem says that the Hausdorff dimension of  $\mathcal{K}(q \mapsto q^{-v})$  is  $2/(v+1)$  for  $v > 1$ .

Over time the findings of Khintchine, Jarník and Besicovitch have been sharpened and generalised in numerous ways, including to involve problems concerning systems of linear forms. The theories for the ambient measure and Hausdorff measures had been evolving relatively separately until the discovery of the so-called mass transference principle [BV06a]. This is a technique that enables one to easily obtain Hausdorff measure statements from *a priori* less general Lebesgue measure statements.

Let  $f$  be a dimension function and let  $\mathcal{H}^f(\cdot)$  denote Hausdorff  $f$ -measure (see §3.1 for definitions). Given a ball  $B := B(x, r)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  of radius  $r$  centred at  $x$ , let  $B^f := B(x, f(r)^{1/k})$ . When  $f(x) = x^s$  for some  $s > 0$  we will denote  $B^f$  by  $B^s$ . In particular, we always have that  $B^k = B$ . The following statement is the main result of [BV06a].

**MASS TRANSFERENCE PRINCIPLE.** *Let  $\{B_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of balls in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  with  $r(B_j) \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . Let  $f$  be a dimension function such that  $x^{-k}f(x)$  is monotonic. Suppose that, for any ball  $B$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ ,*

$$\mathcal{H}^k\left(B \cap \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} B_j^f\right) = \mathcal{H}^k(B).$$

*Then, for any ball  $B$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ ,*

$$\mathcal{H}^f\left(B \cap \limsup_{j \rightarrow \infty} B_j^k\right) = \mathcal{H}^f(B).$$

The original mass transference principle [BV06a] stated above is a result regarding lim sup sets which arise from sequences of balls. For the sake of completeness, we remark here that recently some progress has been made towards extending the mass transference principle to deal with lim sup sets defined by sequences of rectangles [WWX15]. In this paper, we will be dealing with the extension of the mass transference principle in the setting where we are interested in approximation by planes. This is not a new direction of research. Indeed, such an extension has already been obtained in [BV06b]. However, the mass transference principle result of [BV06b] carries some technical conditions which arise as a consequence of the 'slicing' technique that was used for the proof. These conditions were conjectured to be unnecessary and verifying that this is indeed the case is the main purpose of this paper.

Let  $k, m \geq 1$  and  $l \geq 0$  be integers such that  $k = m + l$ . Let  $\mathcal{R} := (R_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a family of planes in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  of common dimension  $l$ . For every  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\delta \geq 0$ , define

$$\Delta(R_j, \delta) := \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^k : \text{dist}(\mathbf{x}, R_j) < \delta\},$$

where  $\text{dist}(\mathbf{x}, R_j) = \inf\{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\| : \mathbf{y} \in R_j\}$  and  $\|\cdot\|$  is any fixed norm on  $\mathbb{R}^k$ .

Let  $\Upsilon : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : j \mapsto \Upsilon_j$  be a non-negative real-valued function on  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $\Upsilon_j \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . Consider

$$\Lambda(\Upsilon) := \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^k : \mathbf{x} \in \Delta(R_j, \Upsilon_j) \text{ for infinitely many } j \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

In [BV06b], the following was established.

**THEOREM BV1.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $\Upsilon$  be as given above. Let  $V$  be a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^k$  such that  $\dim V = m = \operatorname{codim} \mathcal{R}$ ,*

- (i)  $V \cap R_j \neq \emptyset$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ ; and
- (ii)  $\sup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \operatorname{diam}(V \cap \Delta(R_j, 1)) < \infty$ .

*Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-l}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that  $r^{-k}f(r)$  is monotonic and let  $\Omega$  be a ball in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ . Suppose that, for any ball  $B$  in  $\Omega$ ,*

$$\mathcal{H}^k(B \cap \Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m})) = \mathcal{H}^k(B).$$

*Then, for any ball  $B$  in  $\Omega$ ,*

$$\mathcal{H}^f(B \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)) = \mathcal{H}^f(B).$$

*Remark.* In the case that  $l = 0$  and  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^k$ , Theorem BV1 coincides with the mass transference principle stated above.

The conditions (i) and (ii) in Theorem BV1 arise as a consequence of the particular proof strategy employed in [BV06b]. However, it was conjectured [BBDV09, Conjecture E] that Theorem BV1 should be true without conditions (i) and (ii). By adopting a different proof strategy (one similar to that used to prove the mass transference principle in [BV06a] rather than ‘slicing’) we are able to remove conditions (i) and (ii) and, consequently, prove the following.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $\Upsilon$  be as given above. Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-l}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that  $r^{-k}f(r)$  is monotonic and let  $\Omega$  be a ball in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ . Suppose that, for any ball  $B$  in  $\Omega$ ,*

$$\mathcal{H}^k(B \cap \Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m})) = \mathcal{H}^k(B). \quad (2)$$

*Then, for any ball  $B$  in  $\Omega$ ,*

$$\mathcal{H}^f(B \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)) = \mathcal{H}^f(B).$$

At first glance, conditions (i) and (ii) in Theorem BV1 do not seem particularly restrictive. Indeed, there are a number of interesting consequences of this theorem, see [BBDV09, BV06b]. However, in the following section we present applications of Theorem 1 which may well be out of reach when using Theorem BV1. In § 3 and § 4 we establish necessary preliminaries and some auxiliary lemmas before presenting the full proof of Theorem 1 in § 5.

## 2. Some applications of Theorem 1

In this section we highlight merely a few applications of Theorem 1 which we hope give an idea of the breadth of its consequences. In § 2.1 we show that, using Theorem 1, with relative ease we are able to remove the last remaining monotonicity condition from a Hausdorff measure analogue of the classical Khintchine–Groshev theorem. We also show how the same outcome may be achieved, albeit with a somewhat longer proof, by using Theorem BV1 instead of Theorem 1. In § 2.2 we

obtain a Hausdorff measure analogue of the inhomogeneous version of the Khintchine–Groshev theorem.

In §2.3 we present Hausdorff measure analogues of some recent results of Dani, Laurent and Nogueira [DLN15]. They have established Khintchine–Groshev type statements in which the approximating points  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$  are subject to certain primitivity conditions. We obtain the corresponding Hausdorff measure results. On the way to realising some of the results outlined above, in §2.2 and §2.3 we develop several more general statements which reformulate Theorem 1 in terms of transferring Lebesgue measure statements to Hausdorff measure statements for very general sets of  $\Psi$ -approximable points (see Theorems 4, 5 and 6). The recurring theme throughout this section is that, given more-or-less any Khintchine–Groshev type statement, Theorem 1 can be used to establish the corresponding Hausdorff measure result.

### 2.1 The Khintchine–Groshev theorem for Hausdorff measures

Let  $n \geq 1$  and  $m \geq 1$  be integers. Denote by  $\mathbb{I}^{nm}$  the unit cube  $[0, 1]^{nm}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{nm}$ . Throughout this section we consider  $\mathbb{R}^{nm}$  equipped with the norm  $\|\cdot\| : \mathbb{R}^{nm} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined as follows:

$$\|\mathbf{x}\| = \sqrt{n} \max_{1 \leq \ell \leq m} |\mathbf{x}_\ell|_2, \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m)$  with each  $\mathbf{x}_\ell$  representing a column vector in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  for  $1 \leq \ell \leq m$ , and  $|\cdot|_2$  is the usual Euclidean norm on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The role of the norm (3) will become apparent soon, namely through the proof of Theorem 2 below.

Given a function  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ , let  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi)$  denote the set of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  such that

$$|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \psi(|\mathbf{q}|)$$

for infinitely many  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ . Here,  $|\cdot|$  denotes the supremum norm,  $\mathbf{x} = (x_{i\ell})$  is regarded as an  $n \times m$  matrix and  $\mathbf{q}$  and  $\mathbf{p}$  are regarded as row vectors. Thus,  $\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x}$  represents a point in  $\mathbb{R}^m$  given by the system

$$q_1 x_{1\ell} + \dots + q_n x_{n\ell} \quad (1 \leq \ell \leq m)$$

of  $m$  real linear forms in  $n$  variables. We will say that the points in  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi)$  are  $\psi$ -approximable. That  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi)$  satisfies an elegant zero-one law in terms of  $nm$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure when the function  $\psi$  is monotonic is the content of the classical Khintchine–Groshev theorem. We opt to state here a modern version of this result which is best possible (see [BV10]).

In what follows  $|X|$  will denote the  $k$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure of  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ .

**THEOREM BV2.** *Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be an approximating function and let  $nm > 1$ . Then*

$$|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi)| = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1} \psi(q)^m < \infty, \\ 1 & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1} \psi(q)^m = \infty. \end{cases}$$

The earliest versions of this theorem were due to Khintchine and Groshev and included various extra constraints including monotonicity of  $\psi$ . A famous counterexample constructed by Duffin and Schaeffer [DS41] shows that, while Theorem BV2 also holds when  $m = n = 1$  and  $\psi$  is monotonic, the monotonicity condition cannot be removed when  $m = n = 1$  and so it is natural

to exclude this situation by letting  $nm > 1$ . In the latter case, the monotonicity condition has been removed completely, leaving Theorem BV2. That monotonicity may be removed in the case  $n = 1$  is due to a result of Gallagher and in the case where  $n > 2$  it is a consequence of a result due to Schmidt. For further details we refer the reader to [BBDV09] and references therein. The final unnecessary monotonicity condition to be removed was the  $n = 2$  case. Formally stated as Conjecture A in [BBDV09], this case was resolved in [BV10].

Regarding the Hausdorff measure theory we shall show the following.

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be any approximating function and let  $nm > 1$ . Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-m(n-1)}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that  $r^{-nm}f(r)$  is monotonic. Then,*

$$\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi)) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1} g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) < \infty, \\ \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}) & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1} g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) = \infty. \end{cases}$$

Theorem 2 is not entirely new and was in fact previously obtained in [BBDV09] via Theorem BV1 subject to  $\psi$  being monotonic in the case that  $n = 2$ . The deduction there was relying on a theorem of Sprindžuk rather than Theorem BV2 (which is what we shall use). In fact, with several additional assumptions imposed on  $\psi$  and  $f$ , the result was first obtained by Dickinson and Velani [DV97]. Indeed, the proof of the convergence case of Theorem 2 makes use of standard covering arguments that, with little adjustment, can be drawn from [DV97].

In what follows we shall give two proofs for the divergence case of Theorem 2, one using Theorem BV1 and the other using Theorem 1. The reason for this is to show the advantage of using Theorem 1 on the one hand, and to explicitly exhibit obstacles in using Theorem BV1 in other settings on the other hand. In the proofs we will use the following notation. For  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  let

$$R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} := \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{nm} : \mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{0}\}.$$

Note that, throughout the proofs of Theorem 2,  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$  will play the role of the index  $j$  appearing in Theorem BV1 and Theorem 1. Also note that for  $\delta \geq 0$  we have

$$\Delta(R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, \delta) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{nm} : \text{dist}(\mathbf{x}, R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}) < \delta\},$$

where

$$\text{dist}(\mathbf{x}, R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}) = \inf_{\mathbf{z} \in R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\| = \frac{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}|}{|\mathbf{q}|_2}.$$

We note that if  $\psi(r) \geq 1$  for infinitely many  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi) = \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  and the divergence case of Theorem 2 is trivial. Hence, without loss of generality we may assume that  $\psi(r) \leq 1$  for all  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ . First we show how

Theorem BV1 and Theorem BV2 imply the divergence case of Theorem 2. (4)

*Proof.* Recall that

$$\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1} g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) = \infty. \quad (5)$$

To use Theorem BV1 we have to restrict the approximating integer points  $\mathbf{q}$  in order to meet conditions (i) and (ii) of Theorem BV1. We will use the same idea as in [BBDV09]; namely, we will

impose the requirement that  $|\mathbf{q}| = |q_K|$  for a fixed  $K \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Sprindžuk's theorem that is used in [BBDV09] allows for the introduction of this requirement almost instantly. Unfortunately, this is not the case when one is using Theorem BV2 and hence we will need a new argument. For each  $1 \leq i \leq n$  define the auxiliary functions  $\Psi_i : \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  by setting

$$\Psi_i(\mathbf{q}) = \begin{cases} \psi(|\mathbf{q}|) & \text{if } |\mathbf{q}| = |q_i|, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In what follows, similarly to  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi)$ , we consider sets  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Psi)$  of points  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  such that

$$|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \Psi(\mathbf{q})$$

for infinitely many pairs  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ , where  $\Psi : \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  is a multivariable function. Since, by definition,  $\Psi_i(\mathbf{q}) \leq \psi(|\mathbf{q}|)$  for each  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and each  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ , it follows that

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Psi_i) \subset \mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi) \quad \text{for each } 1 \leq i \leq n. \quad (6)$$

By (6), to complete the proof of (4), it is sufficient to show that

$$\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Psi_K)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}) \quad \text{for some } 1 \leq K \leq n. \quad (7)$$

Without loss of generality we will assume that  $K = 1$ . Define

$$S := \{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} : |\mathbf{q}| = |q_1| \text{ and } |\mathbf{p}| \leq M|\mathbf{q}|\},$$

where

$$M := \max \left\{ 2n, \sup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{2}{\sqrt{n}} g \left( \frac{\psi(r)}{r} \right)^{1/m} \right\}. \quad (8)$$

Note that, since  $g$  is increasing and  $\psi(r) \leq 1$ , the constant  $M$  is finite. Let  $\Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} := \Psi_1(\mathbf{q})/|\mathbf{q}|$  for each  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S$ . The purpose for introducing this auxiliary set  $S$  will become apparent later. Now, for each  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, \Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : \frac{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}|}{|\mathbf{q}|_2} < \frac{\Psi_1(\mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \frac{|\mathbf{q}|_2 \Psi_1(\mathbf{q})}{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}|} \right\} \\ &\subset \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \Psi_1(\mathbf{q}) \}, \end{aligned}$$

since  $|\mathbf{q}|_2 \leq \sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}|$ . It follows that  $\Lambda(\Upsilon) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} \subset \mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Psi_1) \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm}$ , where

$$\Lambda(\Upsilon) = \limsup_{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S} \Delta(R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, \Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}})$$

and, in taking this limit,  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S$  can be arranged in any order. Therefore, (7) will follow on showing that

$$\mathcal{H}^f(\Lambda(\Upsilon) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm}) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}). \quad (9)$$

Showing (9) will rely on Theorem BV1. First of all observe that conditions (i) and (ii) are met with the  $m$ -dimensional subspace

$$V := \{ \mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_m) \in \mathbb{R}^{nm} : x_{i\ell} = 0 \text{ for all } \ell = 1, \dots, m \text{ and } i = 2, \dots, n \}.$$



Indeed, regarding condition (i), we have that  $R_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}} \cap V$  consists of the single element

$$\begin{pmatrix} -\frac{p_1}{q_1} & -\frac{p_2}{q_1} & \cdots & -\frac{p_m}{q_1} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and so is non-empty. Regarding condition (ii), for  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S$  we have that

$$\begin{aligned} V \cap \Delta(R_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}, 1) &= \{\mathbf{x} \in V : \text{dist}(\mathbf{x}, R_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}) < 1\} \\ &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in V : \frac{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}|}{|\mathbf{q}|_2} < 1 \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{nm} : \max_{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \frac{\sqrt{n}|q_1 x_{1,\ell} + p_\ell|}{|\mathbf{q}|_2} < 1 \text{ and } x_{i\ell} = 0 \text{ for } i \neq 1 \right\} \\ &\subset \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{nm} : \max_{1 \leq \ell \leq m} \left| x_{1,\ell} + \frac{p_\ell}{q_1} \right| < 1 \text{ and } x_{i\ell} = 0 \text{ for } i \neq 1 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

since  $|q_1| = |\mathbf{q}|$  and  $|\mathbf{q}|_2 \leq \sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}|$ . Hence  $\text{diam}(V \cap \Delta(R_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}, 1)) \leq 2$  and we are done.

Now let  $\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be given by

$$\theta(r) = \frac{r}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{\psi(r)}{r}\right)^{1/m}$$

and, for each  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , let  $\Theta_i : \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be given by

$$\Theta_i(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{|\mathbf{q}|}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{\Psi_i(\mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} = \begin{cases} \theta(|\mathbf{q}|) & \text{if } |\mathbf{q}| = |q_i|, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Similarly to (6), we have that  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Theta_i) \subset \mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\theta)$  for each  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Furthermore,

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\theta) = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Theta_i). \quad (10)$$

Indeed, the ‘ $\supset$ ’ inclusion follows from the above. To show the converse, note that for any  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\theta)$  the inequality  $|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \theta(|\mathbf{q}|)$  is satisfied for infinitely many  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ . Clearly, for each  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  we have that  $\theta(|\mathbf{q}|) = \Theta_i(\mathbf{q})$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Therefore, there is a fixed  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \theta(|\mathbf{q}|) = \Theta_i(\mathbf{q})$  is satisfied for infinitely many  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ . This means that  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Theta_i)$  for some  $i$ , thus verifying (10).

Next, observe that, by (5), the sum

$$\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1} \theta(q)^m = \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n+m-1}}{\sqrt{n}^m} g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}^m} \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1} g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right)$$

diverges. Therefore, by Theorem BV2, we have that  $|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\theta)| = 1$ . Hence, by (10), there exists some  $1 \leq K \leq n$  such that  $|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Theta_K)| > 0$ . By the zero-one law of [BV08, Theorem 1], we know that  $|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Theta_K)| \in \{0, 1\}$ . Hence,

$$|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Theta_K)| = 1.$$

Without loss of generality we will suppose that  $K = 1$ , the same as in (7).

Now, using the fact that  $|\mathbf{q}| \leq |\mathbf{q}|_2$ , for  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S$  we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, g(\Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}})^{1/m}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : \frac{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}|}{|\mathbf{q}|_2} < g\left(\frac{\Psi_1(\mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \frac{|\mathbf{q}|_2}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{\Psi_1(\mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} \right\} \\ &\supset \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \frac{|\mathbf{q}|}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{\Psi_1(\mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} \right\} \\ &= \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \Theta_1(\mathbf{q})\}. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, observe that if  $\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \Theta_1(\mathbf{q})\} \neq \emptyset$ , then  $|\mathbf{p}| \leq M|\mathbf{q}|$  and so  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S$ . Therefore,

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\Theta_1) \subset \Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm}.$$

In particular,  $|\Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm}| = 1$  and so for any ball  $B \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  we have that  $\mathcal{H}^{nm}(\Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m}) \cap B) = \mathcal{H}^{nm}(B)$ . Hence, we may apply Theorem BV1 with  $k = nm$ ,  $l = m(n-1)$  and  $m$  to conclude that, for any ball  $B \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm}$ , we have  $\mathcal{H}^f(B \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)) = \mathcal{H}^f(B)$ . In particular,  $\mathcal{H}^f(\Lambda(\Upsilon) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm}) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm})$  and the proof is thus complete.  $\square$

We now show how

Theorem 1 and Theorem BV2 imply the divergence case of Theorem 2. (11)

*Proof.* As before, we are given the divergence condition (5). For each pair  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  with  $|\mathbf{p}| \leq M|\mathbf{q}|$ , where  $M$  is given by (8), let

$$R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} := \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{nm} : \mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{0}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} := \frac{\psi(|\mathbf{q}|)}{|\mathbf{q}|}.$$

For such pairs  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$  we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, \Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : \frac{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}|}{|\mathbf{q}|_2} < \frac{\psi(|\mathbf{q}|)}{|\mathbf{q}|} \right\} \\ &\subset \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \psi(|\mathbf{q}|)\} \end{aligned}$$

since  $|\mathbf{q}|_2 \leq \sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}|$ . Therefore

$$\Lambda(\Upsilon) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} \subset \mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi) \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm},$$

where the lim sup is taken over  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  with  $|\mathbf{p}| \leq M|\mathbf{q}|$ .

Consequently, if we could show that  $\mathcal{H}^f(\Lambda(\Upsilon) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm}) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm})$  the divergence part of Theorem 2 would follow.

Define  $\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  by

$$\theta(r) = \frac{r}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{\psi(r)}{r}\right)^{1/m}$$

and note that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, g(\Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}})^{1/m}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : \frac{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}|}{|\mathbf{q}|_2} < g\left(\frac{\psi(|\mathbf{q}|)}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \frac{|\mathbf{q}|_2}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{\psi(|\mathbf{q}|)}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\supset \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \frac{|\mathbf{q}|}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{\psi(|\mathbf{q}|)}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} \right\} \\ = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \theta(|\mathbf{q}|) \},$$

where this penultimate inclusion follows since  $|\mathbf{q}| \leq |\mathbf{q}|_2$ .

Observe that if  $\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \theta(|\mathbf{q}|) \} \neq \emptyset$ , then  $|\mathbf{p}| \leq M|\mathbf{q}|$ . It follows that

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\theta) \subset \Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm}.$$

Now, by Theorem BV2 and the divergence condition (5), we know that  $|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\theta)| = 1$  since

$$\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1} \theta(q)^m = \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} \frac{q^{n+m-1}}{\sqrt{n}^m} g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) = \infty.$$

Hence,  $|\Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm}| = 1$  and so we may apply Theorem 1 with  $k = nm$ ,  $l = m(n-1)$  and  $m$  to conclude that, for any ball  $B \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm}$ , we have  $\mathcal{H}^f(B \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)) = \mathcal{H}^f(B)$ . In particular,  $\mathcal{H}^f(\Lambda(\Upsilon) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm}) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm})$  and so the proof is complete.  $\square$

*Remark 1.* Note that the proof of (11) is not only shorter and simpler than that of (4) but it also does not rely on the zero-one law [BV08, Theorem 1]. This seemingly minor point becomes a substantial obstacle in trying to use the same line of argument as for (4) in other settings, for example, in inhomogeneous problems. The point is that, as of now, we do not have an inhomogeneous zero-one law similar to [BV08, Theorem 1], see [Ram17] for partial results and further comments. The approach based on using Theorem 1, on the other hand, works with ease in the inhomogeneous and other settings.

## 2.2 Inhomogeneous systems of linear forms

In this section we will be concerned with the inhomogeneous version of the Khintchine–Groshev theorem presented in the previous subsection. Given an approximating function  $\Psi : \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  and a fixed  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\Psi)$  the set of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  for which

$$|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{y}| < \Psi(\mathbf{q})$$

holds for infinitely many  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ . In the case that  $\Psi(\mathbf{q}) = \psi(|\mathbf{q}|)$  for some function  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  we write  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\psi)$  for  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\Psi)$ .

Regarding inhomogeneous Diophantine approximation, we have the following statement which can be deduced as a corollary of [Spr79, ch. 1, Theorem 15]. In the case that  $\psi$  is monotonic this statement also follows as a consequence of the ubiquity technique, see [BDV06, § 12.1].

**INHOMOGENEOUS KHINTCHINE–GROSHEV THEOREM.** *Let  $m, n \geq 1$  be integers and let  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$ . If  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  is an approximating function which is assumed to be monotonic if  $n = 1$  or  $n = 2$ , then*

$$|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\psi)| = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1} \psi(q)^m < \infty, \\ 1 & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1} \psi(q)^m = \infty. \end{cases}$$

The following is the Hausdorff measure version of the above statement.

THEOREM 3. Let  $m, n \geq 1$  be integers, let  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$ , and let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be an approximating function. Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-m(n-1)}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that  $r^{-nm}f(r)$  is monotonic. In the case that  $n = 1$  or  $n = 2$  suppose also that  $rg(\psi(r)/r)^{1/m}$  is monotonic. Then,

$$\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\psi)) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1} g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) < \infty, \\ \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}) & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1} g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) = \infty. \end{cases}$$

Remark 2. Although the condition that  $rg(\psi(r)/r)^{1/m}$  being monotonic when  $n = 1$  or  $n = 2$  is the one that we naturally arrive at upon combining Theorem 1 with the inhomogeneous Khintchine–Groshev theorem, it is worth noting here that this condition may be relaxed. In the case when  $n = 2$ , by appealing to the more general theorem of Sprindžuk [Spr79, ch. 1, Theorem 15] (from which the inhomogeneous Khintchine–Groshev theorem stated above can be deduced for  $n \geq 2$ ), it is possible to replace monotonicity of  $rg(\psi(r)/r)^{1/m}$  in the statement of Theorem 3 with the more aesthetically pleasing assumption that  $\psi$  is monotonically decreasing. When  $n = 1$  it should be possible to make the same assumption replacement by using ideas from ubiquity (see [BDV06, § 12.1] and references within).

The proof of the convergence case of Theorem 3 once again makes use of standard covering arguments. The divergence case is a consequence of the inhomogeneous Khintchine–Groshev theorem and Theorem 1. The proof of the divergence case is almost identical to that of (11) and we therefore leave the details out. Furthermore, exploiting this same argument a little further, we can use Theorem 1 to prove the following two more general statements from which both Theorems 2 and 3 follow as corollaries. In some sense Theorems 4 and 5 below are reformulations of Theorem 1 in terms of sets of  $\Psi$ -approximable (and  $\psi$ -approximable) points.

THEOREM 4. Let  $\Psi : \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be an approximating function and let  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$ . Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-m(n-1)}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that  $r^{-nm}f(r)$  is monotonic. Let

$$\Theta : \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \quad \text{be defined by} \quad \Theta(\mathbf{q}) = |\mathbf{q}| g\left(\frac{\Psi(\mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m}.$$

Then

$$|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\Theta)| = 1 \quad \text{implies} \quad \mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\Psi)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}).$$

The following statement is a special case of Theorem 4 with  $\Psi(\mathbf{q}) := \psi(|\mathbf{q}|)$ .

THEOREM 5. Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be an approximating function, let  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$  and let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-m(n-1)}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that  $r^{-nm}f(r)$  is monotonic. Let

$$\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \quad \text{be defined by} \quad \theta(r) = rg\left(\frac{\psi(r)}{r}\right)^{1/m}.$$

Then

$$|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\theta)| = 1 \quad \text{implies} \quad \mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\psi)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}).$$

The proof of Theorem 4 is similar to that of (11). We shall explicitly deduce it from the even more general result of § 2.3, where the approximating function will be allowed to depend on  $\mathbf{p}$  as well as  $\mathbf{q}$ . Theorem 3 now trivially follows on combining the inhomogeneous Khintchine–Groshev theorem with Theorem 5. Furthermore, any progress in removing the monotonicity constraint on  $\psi$  from the inhomogeneous Khintchine–Groshev theorem can be instantly transferred into a Hausdorff measure statement upon applying Theorem 5. Indeed, we suspect that a full inhomogeneous analogue of Theorem BV2 must be true. Recall that it is open only in the case when  $n = 1$  or  $n = 2$ .

### 2.3 Approximation by primitive points and more

The key goal of this section is to present Hausdorff measure analogues of some recent results obtained by Dani, Laurent and Nogueira in [DLN15]. The setup they consider assumes certain coprimality conditions on the  $(m+n)$ -tuple  $(q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_m)$  of approximating integers. To achieve our goal we will first prove a very general statement which further extends Theorems 4 and 5 and is of independent interest. In particular, we will allow for the approximating function to depend on  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$  and will also introduce a ‘distortion’ parameter  $\Phi$  that allows certain flexibility within our framework. This allows us, for example, to incorporate the so-called ‘absolute value theory’ [Dic93, HK13, HL13].

Within this section  $\Psi : \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  will be a function of  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$ ,  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$  will be a fixed point and  $\Phi \in \mathbb{I}^{mm}$  will be a fixed  $m \times m$  square matrix. Further, define  $\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\Psi)$  to be the set of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  such that

$$|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}\Phi - \mathbf{y}| < \Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$$

holds for  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  with arbitrarily large  $|\mathbf{q}|$ . Based upon Theorem 1, we now state and prove the following generalisation of Theorems 4 and 5.

**THEOREM 6.** *Let  $\Psi : \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be such that*

$$\lim_{|\mathbf{q}| \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{Z}^m} \frac{\Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|} = 0, \quad (12)$$

*and let  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$  and  $\Phi \in \mathbb{I}^{mm}$  be fixed. Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-m(n-1)}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that  $r^{-nm}f(r)$  is monotonic. Let*

$$\Theta : \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \quad \text{be defined by} \quad \Theta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = |\mathbf{q}|g\left(\frac{\Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m}.$$

*Then*

$$|\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\Theta)| = 1 \quad \text{implies} \quad \mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\Psi)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}).$$

*Proof.* Let

$$M := \max \left\{ 3n, \sup_{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}} \frac{3\Theta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}|} \right\}.$$

By the monotonicity of  $g$  and condition (12), we have that  $M$  is finite. Let

$$S := \{(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} : |\mathbf{p}\Phi| \leq M|\mathbf{q}|\}$$

and let  $S_\Phi$  be any fixed subset of  $S$  such that for each  $(\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{q}) \in S$  there exists  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S_\Phi$  such that

$$\mathbf{p}\Phi = \mathbf{p}'\Phi \quad \text{and} \quad \Theta(\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{q}) \leq 2\Theta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}). \quad (13)$$

Furthermore, let  $S_\Phi$  be such that for all  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}), (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}) \in S_\Phi$  we have

$$(\mathbf{p}\Phi, \mathbf{q}) \neq (\mathbf{r}\Phi, \mathbf{s}) \quad \text{if} \quad (\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \neq (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}).$$

The existence of  $S_\Phi$  is easily seen. For each  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S_\Phi$ , let

$$R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} := \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{nm} : \mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}\Phi - \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} := \frac{\Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}.$$

For  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S_\Phi$  we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, \Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : \frac{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}\Phi - \mathbf{y}|}{|\mathbf{q}|_2} < \frac{\Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|} \right\} \\ &\subset \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}\Phi - \mathbf{y}| < \Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})\} \end{aligned}$$

since  $|\mathbf{q}|_2 \leq \sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}|$ . Also note that for each  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  there are only finitely many  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$  such that  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S_\Phi$ . Therefore

$$\Lambda(\Upsilon) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} \subset \mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}, \Phi}(\Psi) \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm}, \quad (14)$$

where, when defining  $\Lambda(\Upsilon)$ , the lim sup is taken over  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S_\Phi$ . Hence, by (14), it would suffice for us to show that

$$\mathcal{H}^f(\Lambda(\Upsilon) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm}) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}).$$

Consider  $\Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m})$ , where the lim sup is again taken over  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S_\Phi$ . Take any  $(\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{q}) \in S$  and let  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in S_\Phi$  satisfy (13). Then, since  $|\mathbf{q}| \leq |\mathbf{q}|_2$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(R_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}}, g(\Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}})^{1/m}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm} &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : \frac{\sqrt{n}|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}\Phi - \mathbf{y}|}{|\mathbf{q}|_2} < g\left(\frac{\Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}\Phi - \mathbf{y}| < \frac{|\mathbf{q}|_2}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{\Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} \right\} \\ &\supset \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}\Phi - \mathbf{y}| < \frac{|\mathbf{q}|}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{\Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}{|\mathbf{q}|}\right)^{1/m} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}\Phi - \mathbf{y}| < \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \Theta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \right\} \\ &\supset \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}'\Phi - \mathbf{y}| < \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n}} \Theta(\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{q}) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Also observe that if

$$\left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm} : |\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}'\Phi - \mathbf{y}| < \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n}} \Theta(\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{q}) \right\} \neq \emptyset,$$

then  $|\mathbf{p}'\Phi| \leq M|\mathbf{q}|$ . It follows that

$$\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}, \Phi}\left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{n}}\Theta\right) \subset \Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m}) \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm}. \quad (15)$$

Recall that  $|\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}, \Phi}(\Theta)| = 1$ . Furthermore, in view of [BV08, Lemma 4], we have that

$$\left| \mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}, \Phi}\left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{n}}\Theta\right) \right| = 1.$$

Together with (15) this implies that  $|\Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m}) \cap \mathbb{I}^{nm}| = 1$ . Further, note that, by (12),  $\Upsilon_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}} \rightarrow 0$  as  $|\mathbf{q}| \rightarrow \infty$ . Therefore, Theorem 1 is applicable with  $k = nm, l = m(n-1)$  and  $m$  and we conclude that for any ball  $B \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  we have that  $\mathcal{H}^f(B \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)) = \mathcal{H}^f(B)$ . In particular, this means that  $\mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm} \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm})$ , as required.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 4.* Let  $\Psi$  be as in Theorem 4. First observe that if  $\Psi(\mathbf{q}) \geq 1$  for infinitely many  $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ , then  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\Psi) = \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  and there is nothing to prove. Otherwise we obviously have that  $\Psi(\mathbf{q})/|\mathbf{q}| \rightarrow 0$  as  $|\mathbf{q}| \rightarrow \infty$ . In this case, extending  $\Psi$  and  $\Theta$  to be functions of  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$  so that  $\Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) := \Psi(\mathbf{q})$  and  $\Theta(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) := \Theta(\mathbf{q})$ , we immediately recover Theorem 4 from Theorem 6.  $\square$

Theorem 6 can be applied in various situations beyond what has already been discussed above. For example, divergence results of [DH13] can be obtained by using Theorem 6 with

$$\Phi := \begin{pmatrix} I_u & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $I_u$  is the identity matrix. In what follows we shall give applications of Theorem 6 in which the dependence of  $\Psi$  on both  $\mathbf{p}$  and  $\mathbf{q}$  becomes particularly useful. Namely, we shall extend the results of Dani, Laurent and Nogueira [DLN15] to Hausdorff measures.

First we establish some notation. For any  $d \geq 2$  let  $P(\mathbb{Z}^d)$  be the set of points  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  such that  $\gcd(v_1, \dots, v_d) = 1$ . For any subset  $\sigma = \{i_1, \dots, i_\nu\}$  of  $\{1, \dots, d\}$  with  $\nu \geq 2$ , let  $P(\sigma)$  be the set of points  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  such that  $\gcd(v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_\nu}) = 1$ . Next, given a partition  $\pi$  of  $\{1, \dots, d\}$  into disjoint subsets  $\pi_\ell$  of at least two elements, let  $P(\pi)$  be the set of points  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  such that  $\mathbf{v} \in P(\pi_\ell)$  for all components  $\pi_\ell$  of  $\pi$ .

Given an approximating function  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  and fixed  $\Phi \in \mathbb{I}^{mm}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$ , let  $\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\psi)$  be the set of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  such that

$$|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}\Phi - \mathbf{y}| < \psi(|\mathbf{q}|) \quad (16)$$

holds for  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  with arbitrarily large  $|\mathbf{q}|$ . Also, given a partition  $\pi$  of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$ , let  $\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\pi,\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\psi)$  denote the set of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  for which (16) is satisfied for  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  with arbitrarily large  $|\mathbf{q}|$  and with  $(q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_m) \in P(\pi)$ . Now specialising Theorem 6 for the approximating function

$$\Psi(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) := \begin{cases} \psi(|\mathbf{q}|) & \text{if } (q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_m) \in P(\pi), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

gives the following.

**THEOREM 7.** *Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be an approximating function such that  $\psi(q)/q \rightarrow 0$  as  $q \rightarrow \infty$ . Let  $\pi$  be any partition of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$  and let  $\Phi \in \mathbb{I}^{mm}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$  be fixed. Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-m(n-1)}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that  $r^{-nm}f(r)$  is monotonic and let  $\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be defined by  $\theta(q) = qg(\psi(q)/q)^{1/m}$ . Then*

$$|\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\pi,\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\theta)| = 1 \quad \text{implies} \quad \mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\pi,\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\psi)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}).$$

Now, let us turn our attention to the results of Dani, Laurent and Nogueira from [DLN15]. For the moment, we will return to the homogeneous setting. Given a partition  $\pi$  of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$  and an approximating function  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  we will denote by  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\psi)$  the set of  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  such that

$$|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p}| < \psi(|\mathbf{q}|)$$

holds for  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  with arbitrarily large  $|\mathbf{q}|$  and  $(q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_m) \in P(\pi)$ . We note that in this case the inequality holds for  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  with arbitrarily large  $|\mathbf{q}|$  if and only if the inequality holds for infinitely many  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ . The notation  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi)$  will be used as defined in § 2.1. The following statement is a consequence of [DLN15, Theorem 1.2].



**THEOREM DLN1.** *Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\pi$  be a partition of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$  such that every component of  $\pi$  has at least  $m+1$  elements. Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be a function such that the mapping  $x \rightarrow x^{n-1}\psi(x)^m$  is non-increasing. Then,*

$$|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\psi)| = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1}\psi(q)^m < \infty, \\ 1 & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1}\psi(q)^m = \infty. \end{cases}$$

The following Hausdorff measure analogue of Theorem DLN1 follows from Theorem 7.

**THEOREM 8.** *Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\pi$  be a partition of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$  such that every component of  $\pi$  has at least  $m+1$  elements. Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be an approximating function. Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-m(n-1)}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that the function  $r^{-nm}f(r)$  is monotonic and  $q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q)$  is non-increasing. Then,*

$$\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\psi)) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1}g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) < \infty, \\ \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm}) & \text{if } \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1}g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) = \infty. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* First note that in light of the fact that  $q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q)$  is non-increasing we may assume without loss of generality that  $\psi(q)/q \rightarrow 0$  as  $q \rightarrow \infty$ . To see this, suppose that  $\psi(q)/q \not\rightarrow 0$ . Therefore, there must exist some  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $\psi(q)/q \geq \varepsilon$  infinitely often. In turn, since  $g$  is a dimension function, and hence non-decreasing, this means that  $q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q) \geq q^{n+m-1}g(\varepsilon)$  infinitely often. However, since this expression is non-increasing, we must have that  $g(\varepsilon) = 0$ . In particular, this means that  $g(r) = 0$  and, hence, also  $f(r) = 0$  for all  $r \leq \varepsilon$ . Thus  $\mathcal{H}^f(X) = 0$  for any  $X \subset \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  and so the result is trivially true.

In view of the conditions imposed on  $\pi$ , we must have that  $nm > 1$ . Furthermore, since  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\psi) \subset \mathcal{A}_{n,m}(\psi)$ , it follows from Theorem 2 that  $\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\psi)) = 0$  when  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q) < \infty$ . Alternatively, one can use a standard covering argument to obtain a direct proof of the convergence part of Theorem 8.

Regarding the divergence case, observe that  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\psi) = \mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\pi, \mathbf{0}, I_m}(\psi)$ , where  $I_m$  represents the  $m \times m$  identity matrix. Therefore, if  $|\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\pi, \mathbf{0}, I_m}(\theta)| = |\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\theta)| = 1$  where  $\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  is defined by  $\theta(q) = qg(\psi(q)/q)^{1/m}$ , then it would follow from Theorem 7 that  $\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\psi)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\pi, \mathbf{0}, I_m}(\psi)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm})$ .

Now, by Theorem DLN1,  $|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\theta)| = 1$  if  $q \rightarrow q^{n-1}\theta(q)^m$  is non-increasing and  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1}\theta(q)^m = \infty$ . We have that  $q^{n-1}\theta(q)^m = q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q)$  which is non-increasing by assumption. By our hypotheses, we also have

$$\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1}\theta(q)^m = \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1}g\left(\frac{\psi(q)}{q}\right) = \infty.$$

Hence the proof is complete.  $\square$



If  $\psi(q) := q^{-\tau}$  for some  $\tau > 0$  let us write  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau) := \mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\psi)$ . The following result regarding the Hausdorff dimension of  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau)$  is a corollary of Theorem 8.

**COROLLARY 1.** *Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\pi$  be a partition of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$  such that every component of  $\pi$  has at least  $m+1$  elements. Then*

$$\dim_H(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau)) = \begin{cases} m(n-1) + \frac{m+n}{\tau+1} & \text{when } \tau \geq \frac{n}{m}, \\ nm & \text{when } \tau < \frac{n}{m}. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* For  $\tau \geq n/m$  the result follows on applying Theorem 8 with

$$f_\delta(r) := r^{s_0+\delta} \quad \text{where } s_0 = m(n-1) + \frac{m+n}{\tau+1}.$$

Indeed, with  $\delta$  sufficiently small, all the conditions of Theorem 8 are met and furthermore, as is easily seen, we have from Theorem 8 that

$$\mathcal{H}^{f_\delta}(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau)) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \delta > 0, \\ \mathcal{H}^{f_\delta}(\mathbb{I}^{nm}) & \text{if } \delta \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

This means that  $\mathcal{H}^{s_0+\delta}(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau)) = 0$  for  $\delta > 0$  and  $\mathcal{H}^{s_0+\delta}(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau)) = \mathcal{H}^{s_0+\delta}(\mathbb{I}^{nm})$  for  $\delta \leq 0$ . Therefore, if  $s_0 \leq nm$  then  $\dim_H(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau)) = s_0$  since, in this case,  $\mathcal{H}^{s_0+\delta}(\mathbb{I}^{nm}) = \infty$  whenever  $\delta < 0$ . Finally, note that  $s_0 \leq nm$  if and only if  $\tau \geq n/m$ .

In the case where  $\tau < n/m$  observe that  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau) \supset \mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(n/m)$  so

$$\dim_H(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau)) \geq \dim_H\left(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi\left(\frac{n}{m}\right)\right) = nm.$$

Combining this with the trivial upper bound gives  $\dim_H(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^\pi(\tau)) = nm$  when  $\tau < n/m$ , as required.  $\square$

Next we consider two results of Dani, Laurent and Nogueira regarding inhomogeneous approximation. As before, for a fixed  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$  we let  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\psi)$  denote the set of points  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  for which

$$|\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{y}| < \psi(|\mathbf{q}|) \tag{17}$$

holds for infinitely many  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ . Given a partition  $\pi$  of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$ , let  $\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\pi,\mathbf{y}}(\psi)$  be the set of points  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{I}^{nm}$  for which (17) holds for infinitely many  $(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{Z}^m \times \mathbb{Z}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  with  $(q_1, \dots, q_n, p_1, \dots, p_m) \in P(\pi)$ .

Rephrasing it in a way which is more suitable for our current purposes, a consequence of [DLN15, Theorem 1.1] reads as follows.

**THEOREM DLN2.** *Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\pi$  be a partition of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$  such that every component of  $\pi$  has at least  $m+1$  elements. Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be a function such that the mapping  $x \rightarrow x^{n-1}\psi(x)^m$  is non-increasing. Then,*

- (i) *if  $\sum_{q=1}^\infty q^{n-1}\psi(q)^m = \infty$  then for almost every  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$  we have  $|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\pi,\mathbf{y}}(\psi)| = 1$ ;*
- (ii) *if  $\sum_{q=1}^\infty q^{n-1}\psi(q)^m < \infty$  then for any  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$  we have  $|\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\psi)| = 0$ .*

The corresponding Hausdorff measure statement we obtain in this case is as follows.

**THEOREM 9.** *Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\pi$  be a partition of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$  such that every component of  $\pi$  has at least  $m+1$  elements. Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be an approximating function. Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-m(n-1)}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that the function  $r^{-nm}f(r)$  is monotonic and  $q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q)$  is non-increasing. Then,*

- (i) *if  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q) = \infty$  then for Lebesgue almost every  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$  we have  $\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\pi,\mathbf{y}}(\psi)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm})$ ;*
- (ii) *if  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q) < \infty$  then for any  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$  we have  $\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{A}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y}}(\psi)) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* This is similar to the proof of Theorem 8 with the only difference being the introduction of  $\mathbf{y}$ .  $\square$

Finally, let us reintroduce the parameter  $\Phi \in \mathbb{I}^{mm}$ . In this case, considering the sets  $\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\pi,\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\psi)$  (as defined on p. 13), it follows from [DLN15, Theorem 1.3] that we have:

**THEOREM DLN3.** *Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\pi$  be a partition of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$  such that every component of  $\pi$  has at least  $m+1$  elements. Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be a function such that the mapping  $x \rightarrow x^{n-1}\psi(x)^m$  is non-increasing. Then, for any  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$ ,*

- (i) *if  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1}\psi(q)^m = \infty$  then for almost every  $\Phi \in \mathbb{I}^{mm}$  we have that  $|\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\pi,\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\psi)| = 1$ ;*
- (ii) *if  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n-1}\psi(q)^m < \infty$  then for any  $\Phi \in \mathbb{I}^{mm}$  we have  $|\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\psi)| = 0$ .*

Combining this with Theorem 7 we obtain the following Hausdorff measure statement.

**THEOREM 10.** *Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\pi$  be a partition of  $\{1, \dots, m+n\}$  such that every component of  $\pi$  has at least  $m+1$  elements. Let  $\psi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be an approximating function. Let  $f$  and  $g : r \rightarrow g(r) := r^{-m(n-1)}f(r)$  be dimension functions such that the function  $r^{-nm}f(r)$  is monotonic and  $q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q)$  is non-increasing. Then, for any  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{I}^m$ ,*

- (i) *if  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q) = \infty$  then for Lebesgue almost every  $\Phi \in \mathbb{I}^{mm}$  we have that  $\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\pi,\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\psi)) = \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{I}^{nm})$ ;*
- (ii) *if  $\sum_{q=1}^{\infty} q^{n+m-1}g(\psi(q)/q) < \infty$  then, for any  $\Phi \in \mathbb{I}^{mm}$ , we have that  $\mathcal{H}^f(\mathcal{M}_{n,m}^{\mathbf{y},\Phi}(\psi)) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Once again the proof is similar to that of Theorem 8.  $\square$

### 3. Preliminaries to the Proof of Theorem 1

#### 3.1 Hausdorff measures

In this section we give a brief account of Hausdorff measures and dimension. Throughout, by a *dimension function*  $f : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  we shall mean a left continuous, non-decreasing function such that  $f(r) \rightarrow 0$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . Given a ball  $B := B(x, r)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ , we define

$$V^f(B) := f(r)$$

and refer to  $V^f(B)$  as the *f-volume* of  $B$ . Note that if  $m$  is  $k$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure and  $f(x) = m(B(0, 1))x^k$ , then  $V^f$  is simply the volume of  $B$  in the usual geometric sense; i.e.  $V^f(B) = m(B)$ . In the case when  $f(x) = x^s$  for some  $s \geq 0$ , we write  $V^s$  for  $V^f$ .

The Hausdorff  $f$ -measure with respect to the dimension function  $f$  will be denoted throughout by  $\mathcal{H}^f$  and is defined as follows. Suppose  $F$  is a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^k$ . For  $\rho > 0$ , a countable collection  $\{B_i\}$  of balls in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  with radii  $r(B_i) \leq \rho$  for each  $i$  such that  $F \subset \bigcup_i B_i$  is called a  $\rho$ -cover for  $F$ . Clearly such a cover exists for every  $\rho > 0$ . For a dimension function  $f$  define

$$\mathcal{H}_\rho^f(F) := \inf \left\{ \sum_i V^f(B_i) : \{B_i\} \text{ is a } \rho\text{-cover for } F \right\}.$$

The Hausdorff  $f$ -measure,  $\mathcal{H}^f(F)$ , of  $F$  with respect to the dimension function  $f$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{H}^f(F) := \lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{H}_\rho^f(F) = \sup_{\rho > 0} \mathcal{H}_\rho^f(F).$$

A simple consequence of the definition of  $\mathcal{H}^f$  is the following useful fact (see, for example, [Fal03]).

LEMMA 1. *If  $f$  and  $g$  are two dimension functions such that the ratio  $f(r)/g(r) \rightarrow 0$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ , then  $\mathcal{H}^f(F) = 0$  whenever  $\mathcal{H}^g(F) < \infty$ .*

In the case that  $f(r) = r^s$  ( $s \geq 0$ ), the measure  $\mathcal{H}^f$  is the usual  $s$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure  $\mathcal{H}^s$  and the Hausdorff dimension,  $\dim_H F$ , of a set  $F$  is defined by

$$\dim_H F := \inf \{s \geq 0 : \mathcal{H}^s(F) = 0\}.$$

For subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^k$ ,  $\mathcal{H}^k$  is comparable to the  $k$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure. Actually,  $\mathcal{H}^k$  is a constant multiple of the  $k$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure (but we shall not need this stronger statement).

Furthermore, for any ball  $B$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  we have that  $V^k(B)$  is comparable to  $|B|$ . Thus there are constants  $0 < c_1 < 1 < c_2 < \infty$  such that for any ball  $B$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  we have

$$c_1 V^k(B) \leq \mathcal{H}^k(B) \leq c_2 V^k(B). \quad (18)$$

A general and classical method for obtaining a lower bound for the Hausdorff  $f$ -measure of an arbitrary set  $F$  is the following mass distribution principle. This will play a central role in our proof of Theorem 1 in §5.

LEMMA 2 (Mass distribution principle). *Let  $\mu$  be a probability measure supported on a subset  $F$  of  $\mathbb{R}^k$ . Suppose there are positive constants  $c$  and  $r_o$  such that*

$$\mu(B) \leq c V^f(B)$$

*for any ball  $B$  with radius  $r \leq r_o$ . If  $E$  is a subset of  $F$  with  $\mu(E) = \lambda > 0$  then  $\mathcal{H}^f(E) \geq \lambda/c$ .*

The above lemma is stated as it appears in [BV06a] since this version is most useful for our current purposes. For further information in general regarding Hausdorff measures and dimension we refer the reader to [Fal03, Mat95].

### 3.2 The $5r$ -covering lemma

Let  $B := B(x, r)$  be a ball in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ . For any  $\lambda > 0$ , we denote by  $\lambda B$  the ball  $B$  scaled by a factor  $\lambda$ ; i.e.  $\lambda B := B(x, \lambda r)$ .

We conclude this section by stating a basic, but extremely useful, covering lemma which we will use throughout [Mat95].

LEMMA 3 (The  $5r$ -covering lemma). *Every family  $\mathcal{F}$  of balls of uniformly bounded diameter in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  contains a disjoint subfamily  $\mathcal{G}$  such that*

$$\bigcup_{B \in \mathcal{F}} B \subset \bigcup_{B \in \mathcal{G}} 5B.$$

#### 4. The $K_{G,B}$ covering lemma

Our strategy for proving Theorem 1 is similar to that used for proving the mass transference principle for balls in [BV06a]. There are however various technical differences that account for the different shape of approximating sets. First of all we will require a covering lemma analogous to the  $K_{G,B}$ -lemma established in [BV06a, § 4]. This appears as Lemma 4 below. The balls obtained from Lemma 4 correspond to planes in the lim sup set  $\Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m})$ . Furthermore, for the proof of Theorem 1 it is necessary for us to obtain from each of these ‘larger’ balls a collection of balls which correspond to the ‘shrunk’ lim sup set  $\Lambda(\Upsilon)$ . The desired properties of this collection and the existence of such a collection are the contents of Lemma 5 of this section.

To save on notation, throughout let  $\tilde{\Upsilon}_j := g(\Upsilon_j)^{1/m}$ . For an arbitrary ball  $B \in \mathbb{R}^k$  and for each  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  define

$$\Phi_j(B) := \{B(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{\Upsilon}_j) \subset B : \mathbf{x} \in R_j\}.$$

Analogously to [BV06a, Lemma 5] we will require the following covering lemma.

LEMMA 4. *Let  $\mathcal{R}$ ,  $\Upsilon$ ,  $g$  and  $\Omega$  be as in Theorem 1 and assume that (2) is satisfied. Then for any ball  $B$  in  $\Omega$  and any  $G \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists a finite collection*

$$K_{G,B} \subset \{(A; j) : j \geq G, A \in \Phi_j(B)\}$$

satisfying the following properties:

- (i) if  $(A; j) \in K_{G,B}$  then  $3A \subset B$ ;
- (ii) if  $(A; j), (A'; j') \in K_{G,B}$  are distinct then  $3A \cap 3A' = \emptyset$ ; and
- (iii)  $\mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{(A; j) \in K_{G,B}} A\right) \geq \frac{1}{4 \times 15^k} \mathcal{H}^k(B)$ .

Remark 3. Essentially,  $K_{G,B}$  is a collection of balls drawn from the families  $\Phi_j(B)$ . We write  $(A; j)$  for a generic ball from  $K_{G,B}$  to ‘remember’ the index  $j$  of the family  $\Phi_j(B)$  that the ball  $A$  comes from. However, when we are referring only to the ball  $A$  (as opposed to the pair  $(A; j)$ ) we will just write  $A$ . Keeping track of the associated  $j$  will be absolutely necessary in order to be able to choose the ‘right’ collection of balls within  $A$  that at the same time lie in an  $\Upsilon_j$ -neighbourhood of the relevant  $R_j$ . Indeed, for  $j \neq j'$  we could have  $A = A'$  for some  $A \in \Phi_j(B)$  and  $A' \in \Phi_{j'}(B)$ .

Proof of Lemma 4. For each  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ , consider the collection of balls

$$\Phi_j^3(B) := \{B(\mathbf{x}, 3\tilde{\Upsilon}_j) \subset B : \mathbf{x} \in R_j\}.$$

By (2), for any  $G \geq 1$  we have that

$$\mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{j \geq G} (\Delta(R_j, 3\tilde{\Upsilon}_j) \cap B)\right) = \mathcal{H}^k(B).$$

Observe that

$$\bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L \subset \Delta(R_j, 3\tilde{\Upsilon}_j) \cap B$$

and that the difference of the two sets lies within  $3\tilde{\Upsilon}_j$  of the boundary of  $B$ . Then, since  $\Upsilon_j \rightarrow 0$ , and consequently  $\tilde{\Upsilon}_j \rightarrow 0$ , as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ , we have that

$$\mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{j \geq G} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L\right) \sim \mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{j \geq G} (\Delta(R_j, 3\tilde{\Upsilon}_j) \cap B)\right) = \mathcal{H}^k(B) \quad \text{as } G \rightarrow \infty.$$

In particular, there exists a sufficiently large  $G' \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for any  $G \geq G'$  we have

$$\mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{j \geq G} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L\right) \geq \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}^k(B).$$

However, for any  $G < G'$  we also have

$$\bigcup_{j \geq G} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L \supset \bigcup_{j \geq G'} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L.$$

Thus, for any  $G \in \mathbb{N}$  we must have

$$\mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{j \geq G} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L\right) \geq \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}^k(B). \quad (19)$$

In fact, using the same argument as above it is possible to show that for any  $G \in \mathbb{N}$  we have  $\mathcal{H}^k(\bigcup_{j \geq G} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L) \geq (1 - \varepsilon) \mathcal{H}^k(B)$  for any  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$  and hence that we must have  $\mathcal{H}^k(\bigcup_{j \geq G} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L) = \mathcal{H}^k(B)$ . However, (19) is sufficient for our purposes here.

By Lemma 3, there exists a disjoint subcollection  $\mathcal{G} \subset \{(L; j) : j \geq G, L \in \Phi_j^3(B)\}$  such that

$$\bigcup_{(L; j) \in \mathcal{G}}^\circ L \subset \bigcup_{j \geq G} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L \subset \bigcup_{(L; j) \in \mathcal{G}} 5L.$$

Now, let  $\mathcal{G}'$  consist of all the balls from  $\mathcal{G}$  but shrunk by a factor of 3; so the balls in  $\mathcal{G}'$  will still be disjoint when scaled by a factor of 3. Formally,

$$\mathcal{G}' := \{(\frac{1}{3}L; j) : (L; j) \in \mathcal{G}\}.$$

Then, we have that

$$\bigcup_{(A; j) \in \mathcal{G}'}^\circ A \subset \bigcup_{j \geq G} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L \subset \bigcup_{(A; j) \in \mathcal{G}'} 15A. \quad (20)$$

From (19) and (20) we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{(A; j) \in \mathcal{G}'} A\right) &= \sum_{(A; j) \in \mathcal{G}'} \mathcal{H}^k(A) \\ &= \sum_{(A; j) \in \mathcal{G}'} \frac{1}{15^k} \mathcal{H}^k(15A) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{15^k} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{(A; j) \in \mathcal{G}'} 15A\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\geq \frac{1}{15^k} \mathcal{H}^k \left( \bigcup_{j \geq G} \bigcup_{L \in \Phi_j^3(B)} L \right) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2 \times 15^k} \mathcal{H}^k(B). \end{aligned}$$

Next note that, since the balls in  $\mathcal{G}'$  are disjoint and contained in  $B$  and  $\tilde{\Upsilon}_j \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ , we have that

$$\mathcal{H}^k \left( \bigcup_{\substack{(A;j) \in \mathcal{G}' \\ j \geq N}} A \right) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } N \rightarrow \infty.$$

Therefore, there exists a sufficiently large  $N_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\mathcal{H}^k \left( \bigcup_{\substack{(A;j) \in \mathcal{G}' \\ j \geq N_0}} A \right) < \frac{1}{4 \times 15^k} \mathcal{H}^k(B).$$

Thus, taking  $K_{G,B}$  to be the subcollection of  $(A;j) \in \mathcal{G}'$  with  $G \leq j < N_0$  ensures that  $K_{G,B}$  is a finite collection of balls while still satisfying the required properties (i)–(iii).  $\square$

**LEMMA 5.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}, \Upsilon, g, \Omega$  and  $B$  be as in Lemma 4 and assume that (2) is satisfied. Furthermore, assume that  $r^{-k}f(r) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . Let  $K_{G,B}$  be as in Lemma 4. Then, provided that  $G$  is sufficiently large, for any  $(A;j) \in K_{G,B}$  there exists a collection  $\mathcal{C}(A;j)$  of balls satisfying the following properties:*

- (i) *each ball in  $\mathcal{C}(A;j)$  is of radius  $\Upsilon_j$  and is centred on  $R_j$ ;*
- (ii) *if  $L \in \mathcal{C}(A;j)$  then  $3L \subset A$ ;*
- (iii) *if  $L, M \in \mathcal{C}(A;j)$  are distinct then  $3L \cap 3M = \emptyset$ ;*
- (iv)  *$7^{-k} \mathcal{H}^k(\Delta(R_j, \Upsilon_j) \cap \frac{1}{2}A) \leq \mathcal{H}^k(\bigcup_{L \in \mathcal{C}(A;j)} L) \leq \mathcal{H}^k(\Delta(R_j, \Upsilon_j) \cap A)$ ; and*
- (v) *there exist some constants  $d_1, d_2 > 0$ , independent of  $G$  and  $j$ , such that*

$$d_1 \times \left( \frac{g(\Upsilon_j)^{1/m}}{\Upsilon_j} \right)^l \leq \#\mathcal{C}(A;j) \leq d_2 \times \left( \frac{g(\Upsilon_j)^{1/m}}{\Upsilon_j} \right)^l. \quad (21)$$

*Proof.* First of all note that, by the assumption that  $r^{-k}f(r) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ , we have that

$$\frac{\Upsilon_j}{\tilde{\Upsilon}_j} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } j \rightarrow \infty.$$

In particular we can assume that  $G$  is sufficiently large so that

$$6\Upsilon_j < \tilde{\Upsilon}_j \quad \text{for any } j \geq G. \quad (22)$$

Let  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t \in R_j \cap \frac{1}{2}A$  be any collection of points such that

$$\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_{i'}\| > 6\Upsilon_j \quad \text{if } i \neq i' \quad (23)$$

and  $t$  is maximal possible. The existence of such a collection follows immediately from the fact that  $R_j \cap \frac{1}{2}A$  is bounded and, by (23), the collection is discrete. Let

$$\mathcal{C}(A;j) := \{B(\mathbf{x}_1, \Upsilon_j), \dots, B(\mathbf{x}_t, \Upsilon_j)\}.$$

Thus, property (i) is trivially satisfied for this collection  $\mathcal{C}(A; j)$ . Recall that, by construction,  $A \in \Phi_j(B)$ , which means that the radius of  $\frac{1}{2}A$  is  $\frac{1}{2}\tilde{\Upsilon}_j$ . If  $L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)$ , say  $L := B(\mathbf{x}_i, \Upsilon_j)$ , and  $A$  is centred at  $\mathbf{x}_0$ , then for any  $\mathbf{y} \in 3L$  we have that  $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}_i\| < 3\Upsilon_j$  while  $\|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_0\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\Upsilon}_j$ . Then, using (22) and the triangle inequality, we get that  $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}_0\| \leq \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}_i\| + \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_0\| \leq 3\Upsilon_j + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\Upsilon}_j < \tilde{\Upsilon}_j$ . Hence  $3L \subset A$  whence property (ii) follows. Further, property (iii) follows immediately from condition (23).

By the maximality of the collection  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_t$ , for any  $\mathbf{x} \in R_j \cap \frac{1}{2}A$  there exists an  $\mathbf{x}_i$  from this collection such that  $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i\| \leq 6\Upsilon_j$ . Hence,

$$\Delta(R_j, \Upsilon_j) \cap \frac{1}{2}A \subset \bigcup_{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)} 7L.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\Delta(R_j, \Upsilon_j) \cap \frac{1}{2}A\right) &\leq \sum_{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)} \mathcal{H}^k(7L) \\ &\leq \sum_{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)} 7^k \mathcal{H}^k(L) \\ &= 7^k \mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)}^\circ L\right). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by property (ii), we have that

$$\bigcup_{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)}^\circ L \subset \Delta(R_j, \Upsilon_j) \cap A,$$

which together with the previous inequality establishes property (iv).

Finally, property (v) is an immediate consequence of property (iv) upon noting that

$$\mathcal{H}^k(\Delta(R_j, \Upsilon_j) \cap \frac{1}{2}A) \asymp \mathcal{H}^k(\Delta(R_j, \Upsilon_j) \cap A) \asymp \Upsilon_j^m \tilde{\Upsilon}_j^l$$

and

$$\mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)} L\right) = \#\mathcal{C}(A; j) \mathcal{H}^k(L) \asymp \#\mathcal{C}(A; j) \Upsilon_j^k,$$

where  $l$  is the dimension of  $R_j$ ,  $m = k - l$  and  $L$  is any ball from  $\mathcal{C}(A; j)$ .  $\square$

*Remark.* Throughout we use the Vinogradov notation, writing  $A \ll B$  if  $A \leq cB$  for some positive constant  $c$  and  $A \gg B$  if  $A \geq c'B$  for some positive constant  $c'$ . If  $A \ll B$  and  $A \gg B$  we write  $A \asymp B$ .

## 5. Proof of Theorem 1

As with the proof of the mass transference principle given in [BV06a] and the proof of Theorem BV1 given in [BV06b], we begin by noting that we may assume that  $r^{-k}f(r) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . To see this we first observe that, by Lemma 1, if  $r^{-k}f(r) \rightarrow 0$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$  we have that  $\mathcal{H}^f(B) = 0$  for any ball  $B$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ . Furthermore, since  $B \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon) \subset B$ , the result follows trivially.

Now suppose that  $r^{-k}f(r) \rightarrow \lambda$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$  for some  $0 < \lambda < \infty$ . In this case,  $\mathcal{H}^f$  is comparable to  $\mathcal{H}^k$  and so it would be sufficient to show that  $\mathcal{H}^k(B \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)) = \mathcal{H}^k(B)$ . Since  $r^{-k}f(r) \rightarrow \lambda$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$  we have that the ratio  $f(r)/r^k$  is bounded between positive constants for sufficiently

small  $r$ . In turn, this implies that, in this case, the ratio of the values  $g(\Upsilon_j)^{1/m}$  and  $\Upsilon_j$  is uniformly bounded between positive constants. It then follows from [BV08, Lemma 4] that

$$\mathcal{H}^k(B \cap \Lambda(g(\Upsilon)^{1/m})) = \mathcal{H}^k(B \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)).$$

This together with (2) then implies the required result in this case.

Thus, for the rest of the proof we may assume without loss of generality that  $r^{-k}f(r) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . With this assumption it is a consequence of Lemma 1 that  $\mathcal{H}^f(B_0) = \infty$  for any ball  $B_0$  in  $\Omega$ , which we fix from now on. Therefore, our goal for the rest of the proof is to show that

$$\mathcal{H}^f(B_0 \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)) = \infty.$$

To this end, for each  $\eta > 1$ , we will construct a Cantor subset  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$  of  $B_0 \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)$  and a probability measure  $\mu$  supported on  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$  satisfying the condition that for any arbitrary ball  $D$  of sufficiently small radius  $r(D)$  we have

$$\mu(D) \ll \frac{V^f(D)}{\eta}, \quad (24)$$

where the implied constant does not depend on  $D$  or  $\eta$ . By the mass distribution principle (Lemma 2) and the fact that  $\mathbb{K}_\eta \subset B_0 \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)$ , we would then have that  $\mathcal{H}^f(B_0 \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)) \geq \mathcal{H}^f(\mathbb{K}_\eta) \gg \eta$  and the proof is finished by taking  $\eta$  to be arbitrarily large.

### 5.1 The desired properties of $\mathbb{K}_\eta$

We will construct the Cantor set  $\mathbb{K}_\eta := \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty \mathbb{K}(n)$  so that each level  $\mathbb{K}(n)$  is a finite union of disjoint closed balls and the levels are nested, that is  $\mathbb{K}(n) \supset \mathbb{K}(n+1)$  for  $n \geq 1$ . We will denote the collection of balls constituting level  $n$  by  $K(n)$ . As with the Cantor set in [BV06a], the construction of  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$  is inductive and each level  $\mathbb{K}(n)$  will consist of local levels and sub-levels. So, suppose that the  $(n-1)$ th level  $\mathbb{K}(n-1)$  has been constructed. Then, for every  $B \in K(n-1)$  we construct the  $(n, B)$ -local level,  $K(n, B)$ , which will consist of balls contained in  $B$ . The collection of balls  $K(n)$  will take the form

$$K(n) := \bigcup_{B \in K(n-1)} K(n, B).$$

Looking even more closely at the construction, each  $(n, B)$ -local level will consist of *local sub-levels* and will be of the form

$$K(n, B) := \bigcup_{i=1}^{l_B} K(n, B, i). \quad (25)$$

Here,  $K(n, B, i)$  denotes the  $i$ th local sub-level and  $l_B$  is the number of local sub-levels. For  $n \geq 2$  each local sub-level will be defined as the union

$$K(n, B, i) := \bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, i)} \bigcup_{(A; j) \in K_{G', B'}} \mathcal{C}(A; j), \quad (26)$$

where  $B'$  will lie in a suitably chosen collection of balls  $\mathcal{G}(n, B, i)$  within  $B$ ,  $K_{G', B'}$  will arise from Lemma 4 and  $\mathcal{C}(A; j)$  will arise from Lemma 5. It will be apparent from the construction that the parameter  $G'$  becomes arbitrarily large as we construct levels. The set of all pairs  $(A; j)$  that contribute to (26) will be denoted by  $\tilde{K}(n, B, i)$ . Thus,

$$\tilde{K}(n, B, i) := \bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, i)} K_{G', B'} \quad \text{and} \quad K(n, B, i) = \bigcup_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} \mathcal{C}(A; j).$$



If additionally we start with  $\mathbb{K}(1) := B_0$  then, in view of the definition of the sets  $\mathcal{C}(A; j)$ , the inclusion  $\mathbb{K}_\eta \subset B_0 \cap \Lambda(\Upsilon)$  is straightforward. Hence the only real part of the proof will be to show the validity of (24) for some suitable measure supported on  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$ . This will require several additional properties which are now stated.

*The properties of levels and sub-levels of  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$*

(P0)  $K(1)$  consists of one ball, namely  $B_0$ .

(P1) For any  $n \geq 2$  and any  $B \in K(n-1)$  the balls

$$\{3L : L \in K(n, B)\}$$

are disjoint and contained in  $B$ .

(P2) For any  $n \geq 2$ , any  $B \in K(n-1)$  and any  $i \in \{1, \dots, l_B\}$  the local sub-level  $K(n, B, i)$  is a finite union of some collections  $\mathcal{C}(A; j)$  of balls satisfying properties (i)–(v) of Lemma 5, where the balls  $3A$  are disjoint and contained in  $B$ .

(P3) For any  $n \geq 2$ ,  $B \in K(n-1)$  and  $i \in \{1, \dots, l_B\}$  we have

$$\sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} V^k(A) \geq c_3 V^k(B)$$

where

$$c_3 := \frac{1}{2^{k+3} \times 5^k \times 15^k} \left( \frac{c_1}{c_2} \right)^2$$

with  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  as defined in (18).

(P4) For any  $n \geq 2$ ,  $B \in K(n-1)$ , any  $i \in \{1, \dots, l_B - 1\}$  and any  $L \in K(n, B, i)$  and  $M \in K(n, B, i+1)$  we have

$$f(r(M)) \leq \frac{1}{2} f(r(L)) \quad \text{and} \quad g(r(M)) \leq \frac{1}{2} g(r(L)).$$

(P5) The number of local sub-levels is defined by

$$l_B := \begin{cases} \left\lfloor \frac{c_2 \eta}{c_3 \mathcal{H}^k(B)} \right\rfloor + 1 & \text{if } B = B_0 := \mathbb{K}(1), \\ \left\lfloor \frac{V^f(B)}{c_3 V^k(B)} \right\rfloor + 1 & \text{if } B \in K(n) \text{ with } n \geq 2, \end{cases}$$

and satisfies  $l_B \geq 2$  for  $B \in K(n)$  with  $n \geq 2$ .

Properties (P1) and (P2) are imposed to make sure that the balls in the Cantor construction are sufficiently well separated. On the other hand, Properties (P3) and (P5) make sure that there are ‘enough’ balls in each level of the construction of the Cantor set. Property (P4) essentially ensures that all balls involved in the construction of a level of the Cantor set are sufficiently small compared with balls involved in the construction of the previous level. All of the Properties (P1)–(P5) will play a crucial role in the measure estimates we obtain in § 5.4 and § 5.5.

## 5.2 The existence of $\mathbb{K}_\eta$

In this section we show that it is possible to construct a Cantor set with the properties outlined in § 5.1. In what follows we will use the following notation:

$$K_l(n, B) := \bigcup_{i=1}^l K(n, B, i) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{K}_l(n, B) := \bigcup_{i=1}^l \tilde{K}(n, B, i).$$

*Level 1.* The first level is defined by taking the arbitrary ball  $B_0$ . Thus,  $\mathbb{K}(1) := B_0$  and Property (P0) is trivially satisfied. We proceed by induction. Assume that the first  $(n-1)$  levels  $\mathbb{K}(1), \mathbb{K}(2), \dots, \mathbb{K}(n-1)$  have been constructed. We now construct the  $n$ th level  $\mathbb{K}(n)$ .

*Level  $n$ .* To construct the  $n$ th level we will define local levels  $K(n, B)$  for each  $B \in K(n-1)$ . Therefore, from now on we fix some ball  $B \in K(n-1)$  and a sufficiently small constant  $\varepsilon := \varepsilon(B) > 0$  which will be determined later. Recall that each local level  $K(n, B)$  will consist of local sub-levels  $K(n, B, i)$  where  $1 \leq i \leq l_B$  and  $l_B$  is given by Property (P5). Let  $G \in \mathbb{N}$  be sufficiently large so that Lemmas 4 and 5 are applicable. Furthermore, suppose that  $G$  is large enough so that

$$3\Upsilon_j < g(\Upsilon_j)^{1/m} \quad \text{whenever } j \geq G, \quad (27)$$

$$\frac{\Upsilon_j^k}{f(\Upsilon_j)} < \varepsilon \frac{r(B)^k}{f(r(B))} \quad \text{whenever } j \geq G, \quad (28)$$

and

$$\left[ \frac{f(\Upsilon_j)}{c_3 \Upsilon_j^k} \right] \geq 1 \quad \text{whenever } j \geq G, \quad (29)$$

where  $c_3$  is the constant appearing in Property (P3) above. Note that the existence of  $G$  satisfying (27)–(29) follows from the assumptions that  $r^{-k}f(r) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$  and  $\Upsilon_j \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ .

*Sub-level 1.* With  $B$  and  $G$  as above, let  $K_{G,B}$  denote the collection of balls arising from Lemma 4. Define the first sub-level of  $K(n, B)$  to be

$$K(n, B, 1) := \bigcup_{(A;j) \in K_{G,B}} \mathcal{C}(A; j),$$

thus

$$\tilde{K}(n, B, 1) = K_{G,B} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{G}(n, B, 1) = \{B\}.$$

By the properties of  $\mathcal{C}(A; j)$  (Lemma 5), it follows that (P1) is satisfied within this sub-level. From the properties of  $K_{G,B}$  (Lemma 4) and Lemma 5 it follows that (P2) and (P3) are satisfied for  $i = 1$ .

*Higher sub-levels.* To construct higher sub-levels we argue by induction. For  $l < l_B$ , assume that the sub-levels  $K(n, B, 1), \dots, K(n, B, l)$  satisfying Properties (P1)–(P4) with  $l_B$  replaced by  $l$  have already been defined. We now construct the next sub-level  $K(n, B, l+1)$ .

As every sub-level of the construction has to be well separated from the previous ones, we first verify that there is enough ‘space’ left over in  $B$  once we have removed the sub-levels  $K(n, B, 1), \dots, K(n, B, l)$  from  $B$ . More precisely, let

$$A^{(l)} := \frac{1}{2}B \setminus \bigcup_{L \in K_l(n, B)} 4L.$$

We will show that

$$\mathcal{H}^k(A^{(l)}) \geq \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\frac{1}{2}B\right). \quad (30)$$

First, observe that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{L \in K_l(n, B)} 4L\right) &\leq \sum_{L \in K_l(n, B)} \mathcal{H}^k(4L) \\
 &\stackrel{(18)}{\leq} 4^k c_2 \sum_{L \in K_l(n, B)} V^k(L) \\
 &= 4^k c_2 \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{L \in K(n, B, i)} V^k(L) \\
 &= 4^k c_2 \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} \# \mathcal{C}(A; j) \times \Upsilon_j^k \\
 &\stackrel{(21)}{\leq} 4^k c_2 d_2 \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} \left(\frac{g(\Upsilon_j)^{1/m}}{\Upsilon_j}\right)^l \Upsilon_j^k \\
 &= 4^k c_2 d_2 \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{l/m} \Upsilon_j^m \\
 &= 4^k c_2 d_2 \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m} \frac{\Upsilon_j^m}{g(\Upsilon_j)} \\
 &= 4^k c_2 d_2 \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m} \frac{\Upsilon_j^k}{f(\Upsilon_j)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by (28), we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{L \in K_l(n, B)} 4L\right) &\leq 4^k c_2 d_2 \varepsilon \frac{r(B)^k}{f(r(B))} \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m} \\
 &= 4^k c_2 d_2 \varepsilon \frac{r(B)^k}{f(r(B))} \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} V^k(A) \\
 &\stackrel{(18)}{\leq} 4^k \frac{c_2}{c_1} d_2 \varepsilon \frac{r(B)^k}{f(r(B))} \sum_{i=1}^l \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} \mathcal{H}^k(A) \\
 &\stackrel{(P2)}{\leq} 4^k \frac{c_2}{c_1} d_2 \varepsilon \frac{r(B)^k}{f(r(B))} l \mathcal{H}^k(B) \\
 &\leq 4^k \frac{c_2}{c_1} d_2 \varepsilon \frac{r(B)^k}{f(r(B))} (l_B - 1) \mathcal{H}^k(B).
 \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

If  $B = B_0$ , set

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon(B_0) := \frac{1}{2d_2} \left(\frac{c_1}{c_2}\right)^2 \frac{c_3}{2^k 4^k} \frac{f(r(B_0))}{\eta}.$$

Otherwise, if  $B \neq B_0$ , set

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon(B) := \varepsilon(B_0) \times \frac{\eta}{f(r(B_0))} = \frac{1}{2d_2} \left(\frac{c_1}{c_2}\right)^2 \frac{c_3}{2^k 4^k}.$$

Then, it follows from (31) combined with (P5) that

$$\mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{L \in K_l(n, B)} 4L\right) \leq \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\frac{1}{2}B\right),$$

thus verifying (30).

By construction,  $K_l(n, B)$  is a finite collection of balls. Therefore, the quantity

$$d_{\min} := \min\{r(L) : L \in K_l(n, B)\}$$

is well defined and positive. Let  $\mathcal{A}(n, B, l)$  be the collection of all the balls of diameter  $d_{\min}$  centred at a point in  $A^{(l)}$ . By the  $5r$ -covering lemma (Lemma 3), there exists a disjoint subcollection  $\mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)$  of  $\mathcal{A}(n, B, l)$  such that

$$A^{(l)} \subset \bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{A}(n, B, l)} B' \subset \bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} 5B'.$$

The collection  $\mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)$  is clearly contained within  $B$  and, since the balls in this collection are disjoint and of the same size, it is finite. Moreover, by construction

$$B' \cap \bigcup_{L \in K_l(n, B)} 3L = \emptyset \quad \text{for any } B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1); \quad (32)$$

i.e. the balls in  $\mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)$  do not intersect any of the  $3L$  balls from the previous sub-levels. It follows that

$$\mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} 5B'\right) \geq \mathcal{H}^k(A^{(l)}) \stackrel{(30)}{\geq} \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\frac{1}{2}B\right).$$

On the other hand, since  $\mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)$  is a disjoint collection of balls we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} 5B'\right) &\leq \sum_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} \mathcal{H}^k(5B') \\ &\stackrel{(18)}{\leq} 5^k \frac{c_2}{c_1} \sum_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} \mathcal{H}^k(B') \\ &= 5^k \frac{c_2}{c_1} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)}^\circ B'\right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)}^\circ B'\right) \geq \frac{c_1}{2c_2 5^k} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\frac{1}{2}B\right). \quad (33)$$

Now we are ready to construct the  $(l+1)$ th sub-level  $K(n, B, l+1)$ . Let  $G' \geq G+1$  be sufficiently large so that Lemmas 4 and 5 are applicable to every ball  $B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)$  with  $G'$  in place of  $G$ . Furthermore, ensure that  $G'$  is sufficiently large so that for every  $i \geq G'$ ,

$$f(\Upsilon_i) \leq \frac{1}{2} \min_{L \in K_l(n, B)} f(r(L)) \quad \text{and} \quad g(\Upsilon_i) \leq \frac{1}{2} \min_{L \in K_l(n, B)} g(r(L)). \quad (34)$$

Imposing the above assumptions on  $G'$  is possible since there are only finitely many balls in  $K_l(n, B)$ ,  $\Upsilon_j \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ , and  $f$  and  $g$  are dimension functions.

Now, to each ball  $B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)$  we apply Lemma 4 to obtain a collection of balls  $K_{G', B'}$  and define

$$K(n, B, l+1) := \bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} \bigcup_{(A; j) \in K_{G', B'}} \mathcal{C}(A; j).$$

Consequently,

$$\tilde{K}(n, B, l+1) = \bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} K_{G', B'}.$$

Since  $G' \geq G$ , properties (27)–(29) remain valid. We now verify Properties (P1)–(P5) for this sub-level.

Regarding (P1), we first observe that it is satisfied for balls in  $\bigcup_{(A; j) \in K_{G', B'}} \bigcup_{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)} L$  by the properties of  $\mathcal{C}(A; j)$  and the fact that the balls in  $K_{G', B'}$  are disjoint. Next, since any balls in  $K_{G', B'}$  are contained in  $B'$  and the balls  $B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)$  are disjoint, it follows that (P1) is satisfied for balls  $L$  in  $K(n, B, l+1)$ . Finally, combining this with (32), we see that (P1) is satisfied for balls  $L$  in  $K_{l+1}(n, B)$ . That (P2) is satisfied for this sub-level is a consequence of Lemma 4(i) and (ii) and the fact that the balls  $B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)$  are disjoint.

To establish (P3) for  $i = l+1$  note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, l+1)} V^k(A) &= \sum_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} \sum_{(A; j) \in K_{G', B'}} V^k(A) \\ &\stackrel{(18)}{\geq} \frac{1}{c_2} \sum_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} \sum_{(A; j) \in K_{G', B'}} \mathcal{H}^k(A). \end{aligned}$$

Then, by Lemma 4 and the disjointness of the balls in  $\mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, l+1)} V^k(A) &\geq \frac{1}{c_2} \sum_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} \frac{1}{4 \times 15^k} \mathcal{H}^k(B') \\ &= \frac{1}{c_2 \times 4 \times 15^k} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\bigcup_{B' \in \mathcal{G}(n, B, l+1)} B'\right) \\ &\stackrel{(33)}{\geq} \frac{1}{c_2 \times 4 \times 15^k} \frac{c_1}{2 \times c_2 \times 5^k} \mathcal{H}^k\left(\frac{1}{2}B\right) \\ &\stackrel{(18)}{\geq} \frac{1}{2^{k+3} \times 5^k \times 15^k} \left(\frac{c_1}{c_2}\right)^2 V^k(B) \\ &= c_3 V^k(B). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, (P4) is trivially satisfied as a consequence of the imposed condition (34) and (P5), that  $l_L \geq 2$  for any ball  $L$  in  $K(n, B, l+1)$ , follows from (29).

Hence, Properties (P1)–(P5) are satisfied up to the local sub-level  $K(n, B, l+1)$  thus establishing the existence of the local level  $K(n, B) = K_{l_B}(n, B)$  for each  $B \in K(n-1)$ . In turn, this establishes the existence of the  $n$ th level  $K(n)$  (and also  $\mathbb{K}(n)$ ).

### 5.3 The measure $\mu$ on $\mathbb{K}_\eta$

In this section, we define a probability measure  $\mu$  supported on  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$ . We will eventually show that the measure satisfies (24). For any ball  $L \in K(n)$ , we attach a weight  $\mu(L)$  defined recursively as follows.

For  $n = 1$ , we have that  $L = B_0 := \mathbb{K}(1)$  and we set  $\mu(L) := 1$ . For subsequent levels the measure is defined inductively.

Let  $n \geq 2$  and suppose that  $\mu(B)$  is defined for every  $B \in K(n-1)$ . In particular, we have that

$$\sum_{B \in K(n-1)} \mu(B) = 1.$$

Let  $L$  be a ball in  $K(n)$ . By construction, there is a unique ball  $B \in K(n-1)$  such that  $L \subset B$ . Recall, by (25) and (26), that

$$K(n, B) := \bigcup_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}_{l_B}(n, B)} \mathcal{C}(A; j)$$

and so  $L$  is an element of one of the collections  $\mathcal{C}(A'; j')$  appearing in the right-hand side of the above. We therefore define

$$\mu(L) := \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{C}(A'; j')} \times \frac{g(\Upsilon_{j'})^{k/m}}{\sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}_{l_B}(n, B)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m}} \times \mu(B).$$

Thus  $\mu$  is inductively defined on any ball appearing in the construction of  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$ . Furthermore,  $\mu$  can be uniquely extended in a standard way to all Borel subsets  $F$  of  $\mathbb{R}^k$  to give a probability measure  $\mu$  supported on  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$ . Indeed, for any Borel subset  $F$  of  $\mathbb{R}^k$ ,

$$\mu(F) := \mu(F \cap \mathbb{K}_\eta) = \inf \sum_{L \in \mathcal{C}(F)} \mu(L),$$

where the infimum is taken over all covers  $\mathcal{C}(F)$  of  $F \cap \mathbb{K}_\eta$  by balls  $L \in \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} K(n)$ . See [Fal03, Proposition 1.7] for further details.

We end this section by observing that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(L) &\leq \frac{1}{d_1(g(\Upsilon_{j'})^{1/m}/\Upsilon_{j'})^l} \times \frac{g(\Upsilon_{j'})^{k/m}}{\sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}_{l_B}(n, B)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m}} \times \mu(B) \\ &= \frac{f(\Upsilon_{j'})}{d_1 \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}_{l_B}(n, B)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m}} \times \mu(B). \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

This is a consequence of (21) and the relationship between  $f$  and  $g$ . In fact, the above inequality can be reversed if  $d_1$  is replaced by  $d_2$ .

#### 5.4 The measure of a ball in the Cantor set construction

The goal of this section is to prove that

$$\mu(L) \ll \frac{V^f(L)}{\eta} \quad (36)$$

for any ball  $L$  in  $K(n)$  with  $n \geq 2$ . We will begin with the level  $n = 2$ . Fix any ball  $L \in K(2) = K(2, B_0)$ . Further, let  $(A'; j') \in \tilde{K}_{l_{B_0}}(2, B_0)$  be such that  $L \in \mathcal{C}(A'; j')$ . Then, by (35), the definition of  $\mu$  and the fact that  $\mu(B_0) = 1$ , we have that

$$\mu(L) \leq \frac{f(\Upsilon_{j'})}{d_1 \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}_{l_{B_0}}(2, B_0)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m}}. \quad (37)$$

Next, by Properties (P3) and (P5) of the Cantor set construction, we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}_{l_{B_0}}(2, B_0)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m} &= \sum_{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}_{l_{B_0}}(2, B_0)} V^k(A) \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^{l_{B_0}} \sum_{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(2, B_0, i)} V^k(A) \\
 &\stackrel{(P3)}{\geq} \sum_{i=1}^{l_{B_0}} c_3 V^k(B_0) \\
 &= l_{B_0} c_3 V^k(B_0) \\
 &\stackrel{(18)}{\geq} l_{B_0} \frac{c_3}{c_2} \mathcal{H}^k(B_0) \\
 &\stackrel{(P5)}{\geq} \frac{c_2 \eta}{c_3 \mathcal{H}^k(B_0)} \frac{c_3}{c_2} \mathcal{H}^k(B_0) = \eta.
 \end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

Combining (37) and (38) gives (36) as required since  $f(\Upsilon_{j'}) = f(r(L)) = V^f(L)$ .

Now let  $n > 2$  and assume that (36) holds for balls in  $K(n-1)$ . Consider an arbitrary ball  $L$  in  $K(n)$ . Then there exists a unique ball  $B \in K(n-1)$  such that  $L \in K(n, B)$ . Further, let  $(A'; j') \in \tilde{K}_{l_B}(n, B)$  be such that  $L \in \mathcal{C}(A'; j')$ . Then it follows from (35) and our induction hypothesis that

$$\mu(L) \ll \frac{f(\Upsilon_{j'})}{d_1 \sum_{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}_{l_B}(n, B)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m}} \times \frac{V^f(B)}{\eta}. \tag{39}$$

Now, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}_{l_B}(n, B)} g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m} &= \sum_{i=1}^{l_B} \sum_{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} V^k(A) \\
 &\stackrel{(P3)}{\geq} \sum_{i=1}^{l_B} c_3 V^k(B) \\
 &= l_B c_3 V^k(B) \\
 &\stackrel{(P5)}{\geq} \frac{V^f(B)}{c_3 V^k(B)} c_3 V^k(B) \\
 &= V^f(B).
 \end{aligned} \tag{40}$$

Since  $V^f(L) = f(\Upsilon_{j'})$ , combining (39) and (40) gives (36) and thus completes the proof of this section.

### 5.5 The measure of an arbitrary ball

Set  $r_0 := \min\{r(B) : B \in K(2)\}$ . Take an arbitrary ball  $D$  such that  $r(D) < r_0$ . We wish to establish (24) for  $D$ , i.e. we wish to show that

$$\mu(D) \ll \frac{V^f(D)}{\eta},$$

where the implied constant is independent of  $D$  and  $\eta$ . In accomplishing this goal the following lemma from [BV06a] will be useful.

LEMMA 6. Let  $A := B(x_A, r_A)$  and  $M := B(x_M, r_M)$  be arbitrary balls such that  $A \cap M \neq \emptyset$  and  $A \setminus (cM) \neq \emptyset$  for some  $c \geq 3$ . Then  $r_M \leq r_A$  and  $cM \subset 5A$ .

A good part of the subsequent argument will follow the same reasoning as given in [BV06a, § 5.5]. However, there will also be obvious alterations to the proofs that arise from the different construction of a Cantor set used here. Recall that the measure  $\mu$  is supported on  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$ . Without loss of generality, we will make the following two assumptions:

- (i)  $D \cap \mathbb{K}_\eta \neq \emptyset$ ;
- (ii) for every  $n$  large enough  $D$  intersects at least two balls in  $K(n)$ .

If the first of these were false then we would have  $\mu(D) = 0$  as  $\mu$  is supported on  $\mathbb{K}_\eta$  and so (24) would trivially follow. If the second assumption were false then  $D$  would have to intersect exactly one ball, say  $L_{n_i}$ , from levels  $K_{n_i}$  with arbitrarily large  $n_i$ . Then, by (36), we would have  $\mu(D) \leq \mu(L_{n_i}) \rightarrow 0$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$  and so, again, (24) would be trivially true.

By the above two assumptions, we have that there exists a maximum integer  $n$  such that

$$D \text{ intersects at least 2 balls from } K(n) \quad (41)$$

and

$$D \text{ intersects only one ball } B \text{ from } K(n-1).$$

By our choice of  $r_0$ , we have that  $n > 2$ . If  $B$  is the only ball from  $K(n-1)$  which has non-empty intersection with  $D$ , we may also assume that  $r(D) < r(B)$ . To see this, suppose to the contrary that  $r(B) \leq r(D)$ . Then, since  $D \cap \mathbb{K}_\eta \subset B$  and  $f$  is increasing, upon recalling (36) we would have

$$\mu(D) \leq \mu(B) \leq \frac{V^f(B)}{\eta} = \frac{f(r(B))}{\eta} \leq \frac{f(r(D))}{\eta} = \frac{V^f(D)}{\eta},$$

and so we would be done.

Now, since  $K(n, B)$  is a cover for  $D \cap \mathbb{K}_\eta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(D) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{l_B} \sum_{L \in K(n, B, i): L \cap D \neq \emptyset} \mu(L) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{l_B} \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} \sum_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \mu(L) \\ &\stackrel{(36)}{\ll} \sum_{i=1}^{l_B} \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} \sum_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \frac{V^f(L)}{\eta}. \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

To estimate the right-hand side of (42) we consider the following types of sub-levels.

Case 1: Sub-levels  $K(n, B, i)$  for which

$$\#\{L \in K(n, B, i) : L \cap D \neq \emptyset\} = 1.$$

Case 2: Sub-levels  $K(n, B, i)$  for which

$$\#\{L \in K(n, B, i) : L \cap D \neq \emptyset\} \geq 2$$

and

$$\#\{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i) \text{ with } D \cap L \neq \emptyset \text{ for some } L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)\} \geq 2.$$



Case 3: Sub-levels  $K(n, B, i)$  for which

$$\#\{L \in K(n, B, i) : L \cap D \neq \emptyset\} \geq 2$$

and

$$\#\{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i) \text{ with } D \cap L \neq \emptyset \text{ for some } L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)\} = 1.$$

Strictly speaking we also need to consider the sub-levels  $K(n, B, i)$  for which  $\#\{L \in K(n, B, i) : L \cap D \neq \emptyset\} = 0$ . However, these sub-levels do not contribute anything to the sum on the right-hand side of (42).

*Dealing with Case 1.* Let  $K(n, B, i^*)$  denote the first sub-level within Case 1 which has non-empty intersection with  $D$ . Then there exists a unique ball  $L^*$  in  $K(n, B, i^*)$  such that  $L^* \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . By (41) there is another ball  $M \in K(n, B)$  such that  $M \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . By Property (P1),  $3L^*$  and  $3M$  are disjoint. It follows that  $D \setminus 3L^* \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore, by Lemma 6, we have that  $r(L^*) \leq r(D)$  and so, since  $f$  is increasing,

$$V^f(L^*) \leq V^f(D). \quad (43)$$

By Property (P4) we have, for any  $i \in \{i^* + 1, \dots, l_B\}$  and any  $L \in K(n, B, i)$ , that

$$V^f(L) = f(r(L)) \leq 2^{-(i-i^*)} f(r(L^*)) = 2^{-(i-i^*)} V^f(L^*).$$

Using these inequalities and (43) we see that the contribution to the right-hand side of (42) from Case 1 is:

$$\sum_{i \in \text{Case 1}} \sum_{\substack{L \in K(n, B, i) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \frac{V^f(L)}{\eta} \leq \sum_{i \geq i^*} 2^{-(i-i^*)} \frac{V^f(L^*)}{\eta} \leq 2 \frac{V^f(L^*)}{\eta} \leq 2 \frac{V^f(D)}{\eta}. \quad (44)$$

*Dealing with Case 2.* Let  $K(n, B, i)$  be any sub-level subject to the conditions of Case 2. Then there exist distinct balls  $(A; j)$  and  $(A'; j')$  in  $\tilde{K}(n, B, i)$  and balls  $L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j)$  and  $L' \in \mathcal{C}(A'; j')$  such that  $L \cap D \neq \emptyset$  and  $L' \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $L \cap D \neq \emptyset$  and  $L \subset A$  we have that  $A \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . Similarly,  $A' \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . Furthermore, by Property (P2), the balls  $3A$  and  $3A'$  are disjoint and contained in  $B$ . Hence,  $D \setminus 3A \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore, by Lemma 6,  $r(A) \leq r(D)$  and  $A \subset 3A \subset 5D$ . Similarly,  $A' \subset 3A' \subset 5D$ . Hence, on using (21) we get that the contribution to the right-hand side of (42) from Case 2 is estimated as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)} \sum_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{C}(A; j) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \frac{V^f(L)}{\eta} &\leq \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{\substack{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i) \\ A \subset 5D}} \# \mathcal{C}(A; j) \frac{f(\Upsilon_j)}{\eta} \\ &\stackrel{(21)}{\ll} \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{\substack{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i) \\ A \subset 5D}} \left( \frac{g(\Upsilon_j)^{1/m}}{\Upsilon_j} \right)^l \frac{f(\Upsilon_j)}{\eta} \\ &= \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{\substack{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i) \\ A \subset 5D}} \frac{g(\Upsilon_j)^{l/m} \Upsilon_j^{-l} \Upsilon_j^l g(\Upsilon_j)}{\eta} \\ &= \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{\substack{(A; j) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i) \\ A \subset 5D}} \frac{g(\Upsilon_j)^{l/m+1}}{\eta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{\substack{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(n,B,i) \\ A \subset 5D}} \frac{g(\Upsilon_j)^{k/m}}{\eta} \\
&= \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{\substack{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(n,B,i) \\ A \subset 5D}} \frac{V^k(A)}{\eta}.
\end{aligned}$$

Combining this with Properties (P2) and (P5) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{\substack{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(n,B,i) \\ L \in \mathcal{C}(A;j) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \frac{V^f(L)}{\eta} &\stackrel{(18)}{\ll} \frac{1}{c_1 \eta} \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{\substack{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(n,B,i) \\ A \subset 5D}} \mathcal{H}^k(A) \\
&\stackrel{(P2)}{=} \frac{1}{c_1 \eta} \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \mathcal{H}^k \left( \bigcup_{\substack{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(n,B,i) \\ A \subset 5D}} A \right) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{c_1 \eta} \sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \mathcal{H}^k(5D) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{c_1 \eta} 5^k l_B \mathcal{H}^k(D) \\
&\stackrel{(18)}{\leq} \frac{c_2}{c_1 \eta} 5^k l_B V^k(D) \\
&\stackrel{(P5)}{\leq} \frac{c_2}{c_1 \eta} 5^k \left( \frac{2V^f(B)}{c_3 V^k(B)} \right) V^k(D).
\end{aligned}$$

Recalling our assumption that  $r(D) < r(B)$  and the fact that  $r^{-k}f(r)$  is decreasing, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i \in \text{Case 2}} \sum_{\substack{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(n,B,i) \\ L \in \mathcal{C}(A;j) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \frac{V^f(L)}{\eta} &\ll \frac{c_2}{c_1 \eta} 5^k \frac{2}{c_3} \frac{V^f(D)}{V^k(D)} V^k(D) \\
&= \frac{2c_2 5^k}{c_1 c_3} \frac{V^f(D)}{\eta} \\
&\ll \frac{V^f(D)}{\eta}.
\end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

*Dealing with Case 3.* First of all note that for each level  $i$  of Case 3 there exists a unique  $(A_i; j_i) \in \tilde{K}(n, B, i)$  such that  $D$  has a non-empty intersection with balls in  $\mathcal{C}(A_i; j_i)$ . Let  $K(n, B, i^{**})$  denote the first sub-level within Case 3. Then there exists a ball  $L^{**}$  in  $K(n, B, i^{**})$  such that  $L^{**} \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . By (41) there is another ball  $M \in K(n, B)$  such that  $M \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . By Property (P1),  $3L^{**}$  and  $3M$  are disjoint. It follows that  $D \setminus 3L^{**} \neq \emptyset$  and therefore, by Lemma 6, we have that  $r(L^{**}) \leq r(D)$  and so, since  $g$  is increasing, we have that

$$g(r(L^{**})) \leq g(r(D)). \tag{46}$$

Furthermore, by Property (P4), for any  $i \in \{i^{**} + 1, \dots, l_B\}$  and any  $L \in K(n, B, i)$  we have that

$$g(r(L)) \leq 2^{-(i-i^{**})} g(r(L^{**})).$$

Then, the contribution to the sum (42) from Case 3 is estimated as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i \in \text{Case 3}} \sum_{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(n,B,i)} \sum_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{C}(A;j) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \frac{V^f(L)}{\eta} &\leq \sum_{i \in \text{Case 3}} \sum_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{C}(A_i;j_i) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \frac{V^f(L)}{\eta} \\
 &= \sum_{i \in \text{Case 3}} \sum_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{C}(A_i;j_i) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \frac{f(\Upsilon_{j_i})}{\eta} \\
 &\ll \sum_{i \in \text{Case 3}} \left( \frac{r(D)}{\Upsilon_{j_i}} \right)^l \frac{f(\Upsilon_{j_i})}{\eta} \\
 &= \sum_{i \in \text{Case 3}} r(D)^l \frac{g(\Upsilon_{j_i})}{\eta} \\
 &\ll \frac{r(D)^l}{\eta} \sum_{i \in \text{Case 3}} \frac{g(\Upsilon_{j_{i^{**}}})}{2^{i-i^{**}}} \\
 &\leq 2 \frac{r(D)^l}{\eta} g(\Upsilon_{j_{i^{**}}}).
 \end{aligned}$$

Noting that  $\Upsilon_{j_{i^{**}}} = r(L^{**})$  and recalling (46) we see that

$$\sum_{i \in \text{Case 3}} \sum_{(A;j) \in \tilde{K}(n,B,i)} \sum_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{C}(A;j) \\ L \cap D \neq \emptyset}} \frac{V^f(L)}{\eta} \ll 2 \frac{r(D)^l}{\eta} g(r(D)) = 2 \frac{f(r(D))}{\eta} \ll \frac{V^f(D)}{\eta}. \quad (47)$$

Finally, combining (44), (45) and (47) together with (42) gives  $\mu(D) \ll V^f(D)/\eta$  and thus completes the proof of Theorem 1.

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